

Claims

1. A sunblind for a window of a vehicle, the sunblind comprising a rigid frame having a closed-loop configuration, a panel of flexible material secured to the rigid frame, the panel having a desired degree of opacity to sunlight and extending over the interior of the rigid frame, and means for fixing the rigid frame to an interior surface of the vehicle such that the panel occludes at least part of the window to sunlight.
2. A sunblind as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sunblind is formed with a shape and dimensions that match those of a particular window in a particular make and model of vehicle.
3. A sunblind as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the sunblind is formed with an identical shape and identical dimensions to those of the window so as to occlude the whole of the window to sunlight.
4. A sunblind as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the rigid frame is elastically deformable in response to deliberately increased pressure by a user.
5. A sunblind as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the rigid frame is formed from a length of wire.
6. A sunblind as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the panel of flexible material is secured to the rigid frame in a tensioned state.
7. A sunblind as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the panel of flexible material is secured to the rigid frame by a binding comprising a tape that extends around the edges of the rigid frame and is attached to a peripheral portion of the panel so as to form a tube that surrounds the frame and holds the panel in tension.

8. A sunblind as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the flexible material is a fabric.

5 9. A sunblind as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the sunblind includes one or more fixing components that engage both an interior surface of the vehicle and the rigid frame of the sunblind so as to hold the sunblind in a fixed disposition relative to the window.

10 10. A sunblind as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the sunblind includes two fixing components disposed on opposing edges of the sunblind.

11. A sunblind as claimed in Claim 10, wherein each fixing component has the form of a lug that is planar in form and is adapted to engage an appropriate part of the recess formed between a peripheral portion of the window and an adjacent surface of the window frame and any sealing material.

12. A sunblind as claimed in Claim 9, wherein each fixing component is a clip mounted on the frame of the window which is adapted to engage with, and bind to, the rigid frame of the sunblind.

13. A method of manufacturing a sunblind for a window of a vehicle, the method comprising the following steps:

- 25 (a) forming a rigid frame having a closed-loop configuration;
- (b) forming a panel of flexible material which has a desired degree of opacity to sunlight;
- (c) securing the panel to the rigid frame such that the panel extends over the interior of the rigid frame; and
- 30 (d) providing means for fixing the rigid frame to an interior surface of the vehicle such that the panel occludes at least part of the window to sunlight.

14. A method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the rigid frame and/or the panel of flexible material are formed using machines operating under Computer-Numerical-Control (CNC).

5 15. A method as claimed in Claim 13 or Claim 14, wherein once the rigid frame and panel of flexible material have been formed, the panel of flexible material is temporarily affixed to the rigid frame, whilst in a tensioned state, before being secured to the rigid frame.

10 16. A method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the panel of flexible material is temporarily affixed to the rigid frame using double-sided adhesive tape.

15 17. A method of fixing a sunblind to an interior surface of a vehicle so that the sunblind occludes at least part of a window to sunlight, the method comprising the following steps:

- 20 (a) providing a sunblind comprising a rigid frame having a closed-loop configuration, a panel of flexible material secured to the rigid frame, the panel having a desired degree of opacity to sunlight and extending over the interior of the frame, and first and second lugs disposed on opposing edges of the rigid frame, the first and second lugs being adapted to engage a first and second recess, respectively, at the periphery of the window;
- 25 (b) engaging the first lug with the first recess;
- (c) deforming the rigid frame from a rest state into a deformed state so that the second lug is able to engage with the second recess;
- (d) engaging the second lug with the second recess; and
- (e) reforming the rigid frame from the deformed state to the rest state so as to fix the sunblind to an interior surface of the vehicle.

30

18. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the first and second lugs are planar in form, and the first and second recesses are appropriate parts of

the recess formed between a peripheral portion of the window and an adjacent surface of the window frame and any sealing material.

19. A method as claimed in Claim 17 or 18, wherein the sunblind includes
5 a finger grip mounted on either the rigid frame adjacent to the second lug, or the second lug itself, to facilitate deformation of the frame.
20. A vehicle fitted with a sunblind as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 12.